

actually engaged in nursing is eligible for membership, and it is intended that this liberality shall be continued until the end of the present year. After that time new regulations concerning the qualifications for membership will come into force, and an endeavour will be made in some way or other to render the membership equivalent to an authoritative registration by which the skill and competence of a nurse will be certified to the public." My lords, that is an accurate description of what this Association designs. My lords, the Association was founded in the year 1887, and it has received a much larger measure of support than even the most sanguine person might have imagined, particularly having regard to the opposition it has had to encounter, the quarter from which that opposition has come, and the manner in which that opposition has been conducted. My lords, I believe there are at present about 2,700 Nurses, speaking roundly, upon the list of members published yearly by this Institution. It was further estimated that—

SIR R. WEBSTER.—I think the statement of my friend Sir Horace, as to the number, is a misquotation.

SIR H. DAVEY.—The number of Nurses on the roll of our Association is, as I am instructed, 2,700. I have not counted them myself, but if that number is disputed no doubt some gentleman can be found to count it.

SIR R. WEBSTER.—The number is 1,700.

SIR H. DAVEY.—I think my learned friend is under a misapprehension.

SIR R. WEBSTER.—I don't wish to interrupt you, Sir Horace, but I have analysed the figures and I find that it is 1,700.

LORD HOBHOUSE.—The number is not a matter of much importance.

SIR R. WEBSTER.—It may not be important, my lord.

SIR H. DAVEY.—My instructions are that there are 2,700, and if this number is disputed it can be easily ascertained by the counting of the names on the list of the Association. It has been estimated—of course it is only a rough estimate, but the estimate is not by us, but by others—that there are about 5,000 trained Nurses in the United Kingdom, and about 15,000 women really engaged in Nursing. Your lordships will therefore see—whether the figures which I have given be correct or not, or whether my learned friend's figures, which differs from mine by 1,000, be correct or not—the very large number of Nurses that have already availed themselves of the privileges afforded by our Association. And when we consider that we have had the opposition of some of the principal hospitals and training schools for Nurses, who have, from their point of view done all they can to prevent their pupils, joining as it is a matter for congratulation that we have had so large a number. I think that this makes my point perfectly plain; because when I come to analyse who my opponents are and the grounds of their opposition, I may say that it will be my duty to point out that a great deal of the opposition which has been made to this thing has proceeded from a misunderstanding. I want to make this perfectly plain to your lordships—even at the risk of wearying your lordships—I wish to make it plain that this Association in no sense undertakes the training of Nurses. We leave that entirely to the useful institutions at present engaged in that work. I want to make it perfectly plain that we do not propose in any sense whatever to train Nurses; we do not pretend to train Nurses; we have no machinery for that

purpose. We leave that entirely, as I have said, to the very excellent hospitals and training schools which fulfil that object. Nor do we desire to dictate to them in what manner they should train. We have no power to do so, and we desire none. We do not desire to dictate to them how they should proceed with the ordinary work in which they are engaged. Our work is purely supplemental. In fact, we desire by our Register, to tell the public what persons hold certificates, and the qualifications therewith, and so enable the world to judge of the value of the certificates which are granted by those various Institutions. In a word our action is to take a supplemental and an auxiliary position, and not one in opposition to those Institutions. My lords, let me for one moment before I pass from this subject—beside that, your lordships may know what we are doing, and who we are—call your lordship's attention to the document printed at page 13 of our case, which gives the list of the gentlemen who formed the Registration Board at the beginning of the year. I will not read all the names, but if your lordships run your eyes down the list, you will see who they are, and among them members of the medical profession of great eminence. It would be invidious to call attention to any of their names, and I am quite sure that no one will dispute the eminence of the medical gentlemen whose names appear there. And let me also call your attention to the names of the ladies at the bottom of the page. I am not sure whether I should call each of them "Mrs" or "Miss," but I will call them "Misses," if they will excuse me for doing so where I am in error. You find there the names of Miss Isla Stewart, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss G. M. Thorold, Lady Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital; Mrs. Ethel Gordon-Fenwick, late Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Cassandra Beachcroft, Lady Superintendent of the Lincoln County Hospital, Miss Margaret Breay, Acting Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital, Miss Mary N. Cureton, lady superintendent of Addenbroke's Hospital, Cambridge, Miss Christina Forrest and others of great eminence. At page 15 you will find how the registration is carried out at present. It there states that: "Applicants for Registration must produce proof that they are of good character, and that they have been engaged in work for three years in hospitals or infirmaries, of which time not less than 12 months have been spent in a general hospital containing at least 40 beds." I think that when I come to discuss the proposition, your lordships will find that in the words, "hospitals or infirmaries," lies a great deal of the opposition. "In ordinary circumstances a Nurse must give the names and addresses of 3 referees, of whom inquiries will be made by the Board. These referees must be well acquainted with the applicant, and, when possible, one of them should be a Matron or Superintendent of Nurses, and one other should be a medical practitioner." With regard to Registration, and referring your lordships to the regulations, you will observe that in the case of nurses who are still working in the hospital or infirmary in which they have spent the prescribed three years, the Matron will be accepted by the Board as sole referee. "Every Nurse who is registered will receive under the seal of the Association, a certified copy of the entry in the register relating to herself and a copy of the first issue of the Register of Trained Nurses, in which her name appears." Then there follows a specimen form of the Register of Trained Nurses which your lordships

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Best that money can buy
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Five Gold Medals.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Contains no alum.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)